

Board of Trustees

Jan. 28, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

The following are highlights from the Comal ISD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Jan. 28. The next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the board room of the Support Services building located at 1404 IH 35 North in New Braunfels.

Board honors students, teachers, community members

January is School Board Recognition month, and Comal ISD administration presented the board with a DVD featuring Comal ISD students explaining what they thought school board members do and what they would do if they were a school board member. Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker commended the board members on providing outstanding facilities for students to learn and staff to work through the 2005 and 2008 bond issues and also thanked them for providing generous raises and bonuses to the staff, which was only possible due to strong fiscal management.

The board also recognized the local Wal-Mart Distribution Center and representative Diana Adam for a \$2,000 donation made to the district's Parent Resource Centers. Adam presented a check to Comal ISD Parent Community Liaison Jamie Ezell, and Ezell said the donation would help purchase supplies and materials for the resource centers.

Smithson Valley Middle School sixth grader Analisa Dapilmoto and Canyon High School ninth grader Landa Dowdy were also recognized for earning first and second places in their grade divisions, respectively, in the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education's Geography Awareness Poster Week Contest.

Canyon Lake High School senior Ray Brown was also honored by the board for winning the Texas Co-op Power magazine's "Co-op Teens Power Texas" video competition, which earned him a \$1,500 award in addition to a \$1,000 award for his school.

Canyon High School calculus teacher Heather Sanders earned one of the 12 annual statewide Outstanding Teacher awards from the Texas Exes (UT Alumni Association) and the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin, and the board recognized her for this achievement.

Board approves final 2008-2009 AEIS, AYP reports

The board approved the final 2008-2009 Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports given to the district by the Texas Education Agency in December, which provided summative district and campus data concerning student performance. Comal ISD Director of Accountability and Instructional Services Sandra Shelton gave a presentation on the two reports highlighting district achievements and growth on the TAKS exam, graduation rates for district high schools and attendance rates for the district's elementary and middle school students. To view the board presentation, please visit http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/AEIS.asp and click on the 2009 Final AEIS/AYP link at the top of the page. To view the final AEIS and AYP reports given by TEA, please visit http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Student_Performance.asp.

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Board approves Freiheit, Clear Spring boundary changes

Clear Spring Elementary will open its doors in August, which is an extra school Comal ISD was able to build out of the 2005 bond issue to relieve overcrowding at Freiheit Elementary. At the January meeting, the board approved boundary changes to Freiheit, Oak Creek Elementary, Canyon Middle and Church Hill Middle in order to accommodate the opening of Clear Spring.

Students living on the south side of 46 currently in the Freiheit attendance zone will attend Clear Spring next year. Students living on the north side of 46 and east of the Stonegate subdivision and are currently in the Freiheit attendance zone will also attend Clear Spring.

In addition, about 36 students currently attending Oak Creek and living on the east side of IH 35 will be rezoned to Freiheit since room will be available. This will prevent busing to and from school across the interstate. As a result, about 30 other students will attend Canyon Middle instead of Church Hill Middle next year in an attempt to keep them on the same side of the interstate.

Please visit http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/Maps.asp to view the updated boundary maps.

Estimated out-of-district student tuition for 2010-11 approved

Every January, Comal ISD adopts a tuition rate for out-of-district students for the succeeding school year. A formula prescribed by the state has been used to calculate the tuition. Estimates have to be used since budgets, revenues, etc., have not yet been adopted or finalized. The 2009-2010 out-of-district transfer tuition is \$6,102 per student. The board approved to adopt an estimated tuition calculation for 2010-2011 not to exceed \$6,634, which reflects the maximum amount allowed by law. A firm calculation cannot be made prior to the 2010-2011 budget adoption, which will take place in August.

Board approves district, campus 2009-10 improvement plans

Annually, the board has the responsibility to ensure district and individual campus improvement plans are developed, reviewed, and revised for the purpose of improving student performance. The board approved the district and campus plans as they were presented for the 2009-10 school year. To view the updated district improvement plan and each campus improvement plan, please visit http://www.comalisd.org/About_Us/District_Improvement_Plan.asp.

New head football coach hired for CHS

The board approved the superintendent's recommendation of hiring Southwest ISD's Southwest High School head football coach Matt Elliott as the head football coach/athletic coordinator for Canyon High School. Elliott has served as a head football coach for seven years, and his record as a head coach includes 57 wins to only 22 losses, four district championships, five playoff appearances, five playoff wins and zero losing seasons. Elliott is replacing Les Davis who served as the Cougar head coach/athletic coordinator for six years.

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Board approves board policy

Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) periodically issues Localized Policy Manual updates in response to changes affected by legal authority and governing school districts. TASB presents to the board (LEGAL) policies for its review and (LOCAL) policies for its consideration and adoption. The board policies are aligned with strategic, district and campus objectives.

The board approved the TASB Board Policy Update 86, which encompasses changes in law from the 81st Legislative Session and addresses topics throughout the policy manual including election procedures, activity funds management, purchasing, transportation safety, employee grievances, criminal history checks, grading, graduation requirements, physical education, student discipline and absences, the Public Information Act and more.

Please visit http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/ and click on Board Policy Manual Online to view the updated policies.

Purchase of proposed high school site approved

The board approved the proposed resolution authorizing the purchase of approximately 68 acres on the south side of FM 2252, approximately .2 miles west of IH 35 for approximately \$1.4 million. The purchase is funded through Bond 2008.

Comal ISD architects and engineers have inspected and reviewed this site finding it to be suitable for a future high school site, but funding for a new high school would have to come through a future bond issue. The proposed attendance zone would include the area north of the Cibolo Creek (including Garden Ridge) northward to the south New Braunfels area.

Board approves consideration of earnest money contract

The board approved a proposed earnest money contract in the amount of \$4.5 million for the purchase of two properties located on either side of the future Kinder Parkway off of Borgfeld Road. One property is a 30 acre tract with an intended use as a middle school site, and the other property is a 42 acre tract, which is contiguous to Comal ISD's existing 38 acre tract and increases the size of that property for a possible high school site of 80 acres. The total proposed acquisition is 72 acres.

Board renews superintendent's contract

Comal ISD Superintendent Dr. Marc Walker's contract is currently set to expire June 30, 2012, and the board approved a year extension through June 30, 2013.